



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
September / October 2018**

**San Andrés Itzapa, Chimaltenango, Guatemala &
Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, VA, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: October 14, 2018

Next Visit: January 2019

Status of the Relationship: To celebrate and mark their many years of relationship, the two communities are collecting photos from the beginning of the relationship to the present day. Both communities are encouraged to share videos, articles, or other forms of media in the process. San Andres is preparing a celebration to mark the end of the school year with the scholarship children from Chay Balam.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$13

**Tierra Nueva I, Chinautla, Guatemala &
Faith Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: October 1, 2018

Next Visit: January 2019

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva I and their parish are planning to return to Esquintla in October to continue helping with relief efforts for those affected by the eruption of the Fuego Volcano. The Bishop of Guatemala has asked that parishes participating in the relief efforts attempt to bring donations every two months to the Esquintla area. Tierra Nueva I has done a great job of keeping Faith Lutheran informed of all developments concerning their relief efforts. Faith Lutheran is in the process of planning their 2019 North to South delegation and hopes to share more about how Tierra Nueva I and the rest of Guatemala have formed deeper solidarity following natural disasters.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$15

**UPAVIM, La Esperanza, Mezquital, Guatemala City, Guatemala &
First United Methodist Church, Downers Grove, IL, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: November 2018

Next Visit: February 2019

Status of the Relationship: In preparation for the Southern Encounter and [Solidarity Walk](#) in December 2018, UPAVIM is preparing a resubmission of their clinical lab project. The original lab, supported in part by Downers Grove, continues to function, providing various basic lab tests to the community of Esperanza. UPAVIM, however, is now looking for ways to maintain a staff of laboratory technicians to better serve the high demand in the community.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$15

**Las Margaritas II, Ixcán, El Quiché, Guatemala &
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, NC, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: September 18, 2018

Next Visit: January 2019

Status of the Relationship: The two communities decided to do a Skype call 3-4 times a year, rather than every month. The calls will hopefully draw more people and special topics can be chosen to make them more dynamic. The phone call was packed with information exchanges on topics such as the movement of people from Honduras and other Central American countries toward the United States, the scholarship program in LM2, and a potential 2019 delegation. Both communities are more than excited to plan for a 2019 delegation and the welcomed increase in travel that they hope to sustain in coming years.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$50

**Chichipate, El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala &
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IN, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: September 17, 2018

Next Visit: January 2019

Status of the Relationship: St. Thomas is excited to be able to send an additional donation for the computer lab project in Chichipate. The project is finding innovative ways to sustain the computer lab, after local politicians failed to fulfill their promises of support. Chichipate appreciates St. Thomas’ expression of solidarity with the youth of Chichipate in supporting the computer lab. The community of Chichipate also expresses their solidarity by preparing short interviews with community leaders in order to better share their reality with the St. Thomas congregation. Interviews have addressed climate change and other social issues that affect the community.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$80

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Tierra Nueva II, Guatemala
& St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: September 10 and October 27

Next Visit: December 2, 2018

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva II and St Joan of Arc are busy planning for 2019. The scholarship and women's group project coordinators are preparing reports and proposals for next year. The Cristo Vive youth group in Tierra Nueva II has sent in their proposal for the 2018 Children's Christmas party, funded by St Joan of Arc. There has been a lot of follow-up from the August delegation, including a [presentation for the congregation at St Joan of Arc](#), new prayer partners and new pen pals. St Joan of Arc had a busy fall schedule with [a number of activities to involve more people in the parish](#).

Budget for the Visit: \$40

**San Antonio, Cunen, El Quiche, Guatemala &
Danville Congregational Church, Danville, CA, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: April delegation in 2017

Next Visit: Suspended temporarily because of local conditions

Status of the Relationship: The two communities continue to exchange prayer requests and news. The Danville community has organized to [send Christmas cards and student care packages](#) (something they do when their youth go to college and they decided to extend to the graduating youth in Guatemala). They are exploring ways to connect the Danville community with local and international organizations to connect the local and the global. Organizations highlighted so far include the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign and [Aid and Education Project, Inc.](#)

Budget for the Visit: \$40

**Guarjila, Chalatenango, El Salvador &
Wallingford United Methodist Church, Seattle Washington**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: September 2018

Next Visit: November 2018

Status of the Relationship: After consulting with their community members in Wallingford, the church decided to postpone their North to South delegation from February to June 2019 to give the group a little more time to do collective fundraising. In October, Guarjila celebrated the 31st anniversary of repopulation. The celebration was even more special this year because of the recent canonization of Saint Oscar Romero. The events for the anniversary included a mass and special vigil on the day of the canonization.

Budget for Visit: \$15

**San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango, El Salvador &
First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: September 28, 2018

Next Visit: November 2018

Status of the Relationship: San Antonio Los Ranchos and First Lutheran continue to have a very strong relationship. The Sister Parish committee in Duluth met recently to talk about ways to strengthen their relationship. One of the ideas is to organize a delegation, but they decided to wait until 2020 due to the committee members' busy schedules in 2019. In the meantime, their committee will focus on fundraising, communication with Los Ranchos, and the scholarship program.

Budget for Visit: \$15

**Potrerrillos, Nombre de Jesús, Chalatenango, El Salvador &
First United Methodist Church Decorah, Decorah, Iowa**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: July 6-9, 2018

Next Visit: November 2018

Status of the Relationship: Communication continues to be a challenge, but both communities remain committed to their partnership. Both communities have faced scheduling conflicts when organizing regular committee meetings, but there are some ideas for next year. A number of people in Potrerillos have been facing long-term health issues. We ask for prayers for their health and recovery.

Budget for Visit: \$15

**San José La Montaña, Chalatenango, El Salvador &
Trinity Church, Newtown, Connecticut**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: July 6-9, 2018

Next Visit: November 2018

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are talking about the possibility of widening the relationship in the north to include the wider Newtown community, rather than just Trinity church. The two communities are talking about a delegation sometime in 2019 or 2020 and also looking at the continuation of the scholarship program in San Jose la Montana next year.

Budget for Visit: \$15

ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador &

People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: September 2018

Next Visit: November 2018

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope continue to have Skype calls whenever possible to share news and spiritual reflections. People of Hope ordered a number of bags with the PoH logo from the ACOMUJERZA cooperative, hoping to both support their partners and raise the profile of the relationship within the congregation. If successful, there is interest in similar projects in the future.

Budget for Visit: \$0

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting Date: N/A

Meeting Notes: No meeting to report for Jan-Feb.

Budget for Visit: \$15